Please rewrite paragraph 21 as follows:

[0021] Other arbitration schemes are possible. If more than two channels are using the same physical connection, the scheme [must] may be enlarged to take account of all of the other channels. Also, if the controllers are set up so that one controller acts as a master, the scheme [must] may be adjusted so that the master receives all of the information and makes all the decisions and merely sends an enabling signal to the other controllers.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please add new claims 17-25 as follows:

17.   An apparatus for transferring data packets between nodes of a switched fabric architecture, comprising:

a first node including a first end of a first channel and a first end of a second channel;

a second node including a second end of a first channel and a second end of a second channel;

a physical connection joining said first node and said second node through which signals of both said first channel and said second channel are carried;

a first controller connected to said first end of said first channel and a second controller connected to a first end of said second channel, said first controller and said second controller being in communication and controlling interleaving of data through said physical connection.

18. The apparatus according to claim 17, wherein the architecture is an InfiniBand architecture.

19. The apparatus according to claim 17, wherein the architecture is an NGIO architecture.

20. The apparatus according to claim 17, wherein the architecture is FIO architecture.

21. A method for transferring data between nodes of a switched fabric architecture, comprising:

connecting a first node and a second node with a physical connection;
connecting one end of said physical connection to one end of at least two channels and connecting the opposite end of said physical connection to the other end of said at least two channels;
interleaving flits from said two channels along the physical connection.

22. The method according to claim 21, wherein the architecture is an InfiniBand architecture.

23. The method according to claim 21, wherein the architecture is an NGIO architecture.

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24. The method according to claim 21, wherein the architecture is FIO architecture.

25. The switched fabric architecture system for transferring data packets between nodes of the architecture comprising:

a first node;

a second node;

at least one physical connection connecting said first node to said second node;

a processor bus connected to said second node;

a first data channel and a second data channel each having a first end in said first node and a second end in said second node, and both channels being carried by said physical connection;

said channels carrying data packets divided into flits, with flits from both channels being interleaved in said physical connection without bubbles.

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